THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 12th May 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Increase in the cost of tamarind.

* 684 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have investigated why the cost of tamarind has increased by about 300 per cent during this season; and if so, with what result;

(*b*) the quantity of tamarind exported from Madras ports to Calcutta during the years 1950–51 and 1951–52;

(*c*) when the Government banned the export of tamarind from Madras ports; and

(*d*) what further action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) An investigation has been made.

The production of tamarind in the State was affected adversely as a result of continuous drought for the past three years. The year 1952 is reported to have recorded the lowest production on account of very unfavourable seasonal conditions throughout the State in general, coupled with the premature shedding of fruits and uprooting of trees in large numbers, as a result of the cyclone that affected the Southern districts during that year. The indiscriminate cutting and maiming of trees have also had their effect. The Government of India have been addressed to limit the export quota of tamarind to foreign countries.

" (*b*) No separate figures are available.

" (*c*) There has been no ban on exports of tamarind.

" (*d*) As already stated, Government of India have been addressed to limit the export quota to foreign countries."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN:—" Though tamarind is a commodity which is largely in demand by the people for their daily use, there are certain complaints in the Southern districts that the commodity is either non-available or that its price is very high. May I

request the Government to take effective steps to see that enough quantity of tamarind is retained in this State for the consumption of the people? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' I have said that we have addressed the Government of India to limit the export quota of tamarind to foreign countries.''

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Sir, மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு நம் அரசாங்கம் கொடுத்த அறிவிப்பை மத்திய அரசாங்கம் ஏற்காத காரணத்தால் புளி விலையும், மிளகாய் விலையும் ஏறிக்கொண்டு . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" புளியை மட்டும் இப்போது எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம்."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" விலை ஏறிக்கொண்டே போவதால் அதைத் தடுப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' The Government of India are likely to accept our recommendation. In such matters, they have never gone against our recommendation.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Apart from the stock available in our own State, it was the usual practice to get tamarind from Chittoor district. The Andhra Government have now banned the export of tamarind from Chittoor district. Will the Government of Madras persuade the Andhra Government to permit the export of tamarind from Chittoor district to the Madras State? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' There could be no legal ban imposed on the export of tamarind from Chittoor district. It will not come under any of the provisions of the existing law.''

SRI P. JEEVANANDAM :—" தலைவர் அவர்களே. கனம் நிதி மந்திரி அவர்கள் கூறிய பதிலிலிருந்து ஒரு விஷயம் புலப்படுகிறது. இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஏற்றுமதி போன்ற விஷயத்தால் மட்டுமல்லாமல், புயல் ஏற்பட்டு அதனாலும் பெருவாரியான மரங்கள் சேதமடைந்துள்ளது. மந்திரி அவர்கள் அதோடு முறை தவறி மரங்களை வெட்டி வீழ்த்துகிறார்கள் என்று குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்திலே புளியானது தினமும் உபயோகப்படுத்தும் ஆகாரங்களில் ஒன்றாக இருப்பதால், இவ்வாறு மரங்களை வெட்டாமல் தடுப்பதற்கு ஏதாவது இந்த அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Steps have already been taken and a committee has been appointed to go into this matter.''

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—'' The Hon. Minister said that the Madras Government had requested the Union Government to limit the export quota of tamarind to foreign countries. Before making the request, have the Government investigated and found out the surplus quantity available in this State? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A survey was made by the State Marketing Officer and he has given us figures about the export to Ceylon and other States. He has made

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a recommendation that this year the export should be restricted to one thousand tons as against the usual export of six thousand or seven thousand tons.''

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—'' May I know whether the Government have taken adequate steps to plant more tamarind trees, so that our State may be self-sufficient in tamarind in future?''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' On many avenues, tamarind trees have been planted. In view of the high price of tamarind, I hope private parties also will plant tamarind trees.''

SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHY GOUNDER :—'' அரசாங்கத்திற்கு சொந்தமான சாலைகளில் இருக்கும் மரங்களையும், மற்றும் ஜில்லா போர்டுக்குச் சொந்தமான இடங்களில் இருக்கும் மரங்களையும் வெட்டாமல் இருப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் தடை செய்யுமா? அப்படி நடவாமல் தடுப்பதற்காக, வெட்டுபவர்களுக்கு தக்க தண்டனை விதிக்க யோசனை செய்வார்களா?''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' It is very difficult to protect trees from being cut by persons in the vicinity. That is why we have appointed a committee to go into this matter and make recommendations. One of the measures which is being considered now is whether we cannot transfer the trees to the neighbouring landowners subject to the condition that they maintain the trees in proper condition.''

Appointment of Block Development Officers.

* 685 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Block Development Officers have been appointed in the State;

(*b*) the principles on which these appointments have been made; and

(*c*) how many of them belong to the backward communities?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) 28.

'' (*b*) The prime consideration was to pick out the best men suitable for work under the National Extension Service and men who have aptitude for social work.

'' (*c*) 10.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Are these Block Development Officers given the status of non-gazetted officers or gazetted officers?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' They are given the status of gazetted officers.''